

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Official Action dated January 17, 2003, contained a final rejection of Claims 1-11 and 13. The changes made to the claims in this Amendment are believed to overcome the rejections, and a Request for Continued Examination accompanies this Amendment, in order to have the finality of the rejections removed, and to have the amendments considered on the merits.

Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Miskin et al. (U.S. 5,830,010) Claims 1, 7-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Green et al. (U.S. 5,409,384). It is believed that the changes made in Claim 1 by this amendment overcome these grounds of rejection, and that Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to include certain features previously presented in Claims 3 and 9, which have been canceled. Claim 1 now recites that the electrical conductor track element is to be flexible, and has a multi-layer foil-like structure. Claims 3 and 9 previously recited that the element was to be flexible (Claim 3) and a multi-layer structure (Claim 9). The additional feature that the element is to be “foil-like” is described in the specification in the last paragraph on page 5 of the specification.

Further changes to Claim 1 include that walls of a housing of the electrical connection arrangement are arranged such that they form, along with the electrical component, a basin, and that the basin is open on one side only. These features of the

invention are described at page 6 of the specification, in the second full paragraph on that page (lines 13-25).

These features that have been added to Claim 1 are believed to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the cited Miskin and Green patent, as discussed below.

Referring first to the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13 as being anticipated by Miskin, it is respectfully submitted that Miskin does not explicitly or inherently disclose each and every limitation set forth in amended Claim 1.

Miskin discloses a device having an electrical conductor track element consisting of first and second terminals (32, 34) having a dielectric insert (44) sandwiched therebetween, as discussed in Miskin at Column 3, lines 24-26. This structure does not meet the limitation in amended Claim 1 which requires that the electrical conductor track element is to be, "a flexible multi-layer foil-like" component. Accordingly, the Miskin patent does not anticipate amended Claim 1.

The use of a flexible, multi-layer foil-like track element is significant in the present invention, in that it allows, for example, an especially simple adaptation of the track element to the spatial form of a given device. This aspect of the invention is discussed at pages 2 and 3 of the specification.

Miskin does not disclose or suggest the provision of a track element of this type, and does not address the desired capability of being able to adapt the track element to the spatial form of the device. Miskin instead is directed to a terminating connector for a data transmission cable, in which the terminals (32, 34) are used to ensure an adequate electrical contact at the contact points (36, 38). The dielectric insert (44) sandwiched between the terminals (32, 34) is used to adjust the impedance

of the terminating connector. It would not appear to be appropriate, to employ a flexible multi-layer foil-like track element in this type of service.

As such, not only is Claim 1 not anticipated by Miskin, Claim 1 is not rendered obvious in view of Miskin, either. Claim 1 is thus believed to be allowable over Miskin. Claims 2, 4-6, 10, 11 and 13, which were also subject to the rejection in view of Miskin, and which all depend from Claim 1, are believed to be allowable as well. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13 are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7-11 and 13, were also rejected as being anticipated by the Green patent. It is respectfully submitted that the Green patent does not disclose each and every limitation contained in amended Claim 1, and therefore Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over this reference.

The fact that Claim 3 was not subject to this rejection, and that the limitation previously set forth in Claim 3 is now present in Claim 1, evidences that the rejection based on alleged anticipation by the Green patent is now mooted.

Further, the Green patent does not, contrary to the assertion in the Official Action, disclose a basin of the type set forth in Claim 1. In present Claim 1, the claimed basin is formed by walls of the housing of the electrical connection arrangement, in concert with the electrical component. Such a basin is not disclosed in the Green patent. Further, to the extent that the teachings of Green could be stretched to contend that a basin is provided in the Green device, Green clearly does not disclose that any such basin is open on one side only, a limitation now present in Claim 1. As can be seen in FIG. 1 of Green, the cavity alleged to read on the claimed basin is open at the side walls as well as at a top of the cavity.

In addition, the basin in amended Claim 1 is recited as being formed by the walls of the housing and the electrical component. In contrast, the cavity disclosed in Green is formed by housing walls, the electrical component (30) and the electrical conductor track elements themselves. The claimed basin is provided to limit the dispersion of the liquid molding mass, in order to avoid a deterioration of other components of the track element. The cavity provided in the Green device, which is asserted to be the structure corresponding to the claimed "basin", does not accomplish this function. The potting material as deposited in the cavity in Green is apparently limited in movement only by the surface tension of the thin layer of material formed (between 0.070 and 0.080 inches).

There is no disclosure in the Green patent which suggests that the Green structure could obviously be modified to produce the structure presently set forth in amended Claim 1, including the limitations discussed above. There has further been no contention that the structure in the Green patent could obviously be modified in view of the teachings of other prior art, in order to arrive at the invention as presently claimed. Again, evidence in support of this can be found in the fact that Claim 3, which is now incorporated into Claim 1, was not subject to any rejection in view of Green, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Claim 1, and Claims 7-11 and 13 depending therefrom, are clearly patentable over the cited Green reference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 USC §102(b), in view of the Green patent, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that the claims as currently presented are allowable over the cited prior art, and are, in all other respects, in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections are

respectfully requested. Passage of the application to issue at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1 1. (twice amended) An electrical connection arrangement comprising [an] a
2 flexible multi-layer foil-like electrical conductor track element having at least one
3 connection portion electrically connected to a connection zone of an electrical
4 component, wherein [a wall] walls of a housing of the electrical connection
5 arrangement [is] are provided in the vicinity of said connection portion and said
6 connection zone, said walls being arranged such that they form, along with the
7 electrical component, a basin [is formed], said basin being open on one side only, and
8 an originally flowable molding mass is distributed in said basin such that said
9 connection portion of the electrical conductor track element and said connection zone
10 of the electrical component are completely covered by the molding mass.

1 10. (Amended) The electrical connection arrangement of Claim [9] 1 wherein
2 at least one layer of said track element comprises electrically conductive tracks.

1 11. (Amended) The electrical connection arrangement of Claim [9] 1 wherein
2 at least one layer is an electrically isolating layer.